(b) and (c) Pink headed duck and the Himalayan mountain quail were last sighted in 1935 and 1876 respectively and hence are considered extinct. Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to protect Jerdon's Courser, Forest Spotted Owlet, Cranes and Vultures are as follows:-

(i) Protection status of Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing it the highest degree of protection under the Act.

(ii) Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.

(iii) Management of the Wildlife Habitats is done on scientific lines, allowing only such activities in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.

(iv) Support scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving strategies for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of various species.

(v) National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.

(vi) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Reduction of CO_2 and CFC

†1114. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the view point of India in the C.O.P. Conference was different from the earlier view point;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such important changes in Government's policy on such a serious issue, like environment; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and C.F.C. at national level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) Government of India has not only maintained its earlier view point but also reiterated the same at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in New Delhi from 23rd October to 1st November, 2002.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several measures have been adopted by Government of India to promote efficient utilization of fossil fuels, use of renewable energy technologies, abatement of pollution and conservation of forests that would help in reducing the CO_2 emissions. Similarly, India has been able to achieve the 1999 freeze in production and consumption of CFCs. Projects for reduction and eventual cessation of consumption and production of CFCs have also been taken up.

Study on Ganga Pollution

1115. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Ganga Action Plan started;

(b) what are the details of tortuous attempts made to clean the Ganga and the amount spent so far;

(c) how many studies were conducted and the reports submitted so far, giving the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have planned one more study for control of pollution by an international agency; if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(e) by when the report is likely to be presented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) and (b) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been taken up in two phases. The first phase of Ganga Action Plan was started in 1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality along 25 towns. The Plan was completed on 31.3.2000 and an amount of Rs. 451.70 crore has been spent. Against a target capacity of 873 million litres per day (mld) planned for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 865 mld has been created.

The GAP Phase-II, which covers Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomti